

OBITUARY



LUELLA WALKLEY MUESEBECK
1905-1981

Luella Walkley Muesebeck was born May 22, 1905, in McClure, Pennsylvania, as Luella May Walkley. Her father was a career Army man, and the family moved frequently. Luella's only brother, Charles, was born in New Jersey and her only sister, Orlena, in Rhode Island. When Luella was six years old, the family moved to the West Coast, her father having been assigned to Fort Worden, in the Puget Sound area of Washington, and they lived on the base. Here they remained until 1915 when they moved to New York State where they lived until Luella's father returned from Europe at the end of the First World War and was reassigned to Fort Worden. The family again lived on the base until 1923 when the father retired from the Army and built a home for them at nearby Port Townsend.

Luella attended the high school in Port Townsend 1919-1923 and Western

Washington College of Education 1924–25. During the following several years she taught in public schools in Burlington and Dabob, Washington, and Crowheart, Wyoming. With the rest of the family still in Port Townsend, she then attended the University of Washington in Seattle, graduating in 1933 with a major in zoology and a minor in journalism. Here she came under the influence of Dr. Trevor Kincaid, head of the Department of Zoology, and developed a keen interest in biology and natural history. She participated in numerous field excursions involving study of water and shore biology of the Puget Sound region and of the biology of the nearby Cascade Mountains.

Soon after this she went to Washington, D.C., and for several years taught in the public schools there. In 1942 she was appointed Naval Research Analyst in the Office of Censorship, and in 1946 she transferred to the Department of Agriculture, being appointed to a subprofessional position in the Division of Insect Identification of the old Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. Although originally assigned to the cataloging section of the Division she was soon placed on the professional staff. Her first responsibility here was in bibliographical research, in which she excelled. In this connection she coauthored with me certain sections of the Catalog of the Hymenoptera of North America north of Mexico, published by The Department of Agriculture in 1951 (U.S. Dep. Agric., Agric. Monogr. 2), and also a work entitled "Type species of the genera and subgenera . . . of the superfamily Proctotrupeoidea," published in 1956 (Proc. U.S. Natl. Mus. 105: 319–419). Her familiarity with the International Rules of Zoological Nomenclature and the Opinions of the International Commission, together with unusual aptitude in the interpretation and application of them, contributed significantly to the success of the latter project. Soon after this she was appointed specialist in the hymenopterous family Ichneumonidae with responsibility for supplying needed identifications and conducting research in the systematics of the group. Intermittently she also continued study of the small coleopterous family Lathridiidae which she had begun while at the University of Washington.

Luella retired in January 1969 and continued to make her home in the outskirts of Silver Spring, Maryland, where she had more than two acres of lawn, garden, and woodland. She was devoted and skillful in rose culture and sometimes exhibited her roses in the annual exhibitions sponsored by the Potomac Rose Society, winning a number of prizes. She knew and loved the song birds and saw to it that those in her area had food in winter and summer. Her knowledge of the local wildflowers also was exceptional; she even cultivated some of these in a natural setting at the edge of her woodland.

For many years Luella had suffered from a respiratory ailment, which became seriously aggravated in 1976. She attributed her worsening condi-

tion to the increased air pollution in her area, and eventually she decided to return to the Puget Sound region of Washington where she had spent her youth. Efforts to become readjusted and settled here weakened her further, but she acquired a comfortable and nicely situated home on Camano Island. She and I were married there in April 1980. Her health continued to worsen, however, and on March 12, 1981 she suffered a stroke which was followed by her death on March 21. Besides me, her husband, only a sister, Orlena W. Braun, of Jensen Beach, Florida, survives her. Her passing left an especial void in the lives of both of us, but it also has grieved a large number of friends for all who knew her loved her. Luella was a member of the Entomological Society of Washington.

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